GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:233
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Pollution in Delhi
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Patole Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi is experiencing smog continuously during the current winter season;
(b) if so, the areas in Delhi which are severely affected by smog and resultant air pollution;
(c) whether air pollution in Delhi is far worse than Beijing in China and if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard;
(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce car free days in certain parts of Delhi to tide over the crisis; and
(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to introduce cycling in these areas to reduce pollution in Delhi?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 233 due for reply on 15.12.2015 regarding "Pollution in Delhi" by SHRI NANA PATOLE and SHRI ARJUN MEGHWAL, Hon"ble Members of Parliament

(a) & (b) Ministry of Earth Sciences has informed that the usual phenomenon of moderate fog/ smog/haze has been reported at some places during the current winter season in Delhi. Smog is a mixture of smoke and fog and it occurs when emissions from industry, motor vehicles, incinerators, open burning of garbage, biomass, etc. and other sources accumulate under certain climatic conditions.

(c) Ambient air quality data of Beijing city is not available with this Ministry. The various steps taken to improve ambient air quality in Delhi inter-alia include;
â€¢ Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (2009), envisaging 12 pollutants;
â€¢ Formulation of regulations / statutes;
â€¢ Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality;
â€¢ Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels and promotion of public transport network;
â€¢ Creation of infrastructure for pollution control;
â€¢ Promotion of cleaner production processes, setting up of common pollution control facilities etc.

The Government, after realizing the gravity of air pollution, has also taken more concrete measures as listed below:
â€¢ Clean India Mission (Swatch Bharat Abhiyan) launched on 2nd October, 2014;
â€¢ Implementation of Bharat Stage IV norms in the 63 selected cities and Bharat Stage III norms in rest of the country;
â€¢ National Air Quality index launched by the Prime Minister in April, 2015 starting with 10 cities;
â€¢ Banning of burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste in cities like Delhi;
â€¢ Relevant draft rules, including those pertaining to construction and demolition waste notified;
â€¢ Co-ordination meetings held at official and ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the National Capital Region (NCR);
â€¢ Short-term plan has been reviewed and long-term plans have been formulated by States to mitigate pollution in NCR;
â€¢ Stringent industrial standards have been formulated and notified for public/stakeholder's comments; standards for sugar industry, thermal power plants and CETPs have been finalized;
â€¢ Government is giving high priority for public partnership in lane discipline, car pooling, vehicle maintenance, pollution under control certification, idling of vehicles etc;
â€¢ Out of 3386 major industries, 1782 industries have installed on-line continuous (24X7) monitoring devices; others are in process of installing; and
â€¢ Construction of peripheral eastern and western expressways around Delhi to divert non-destined vehicles.

(d) & (e) The Government of NCT of Delhi has observed first car-free day campaign 'Ab Bus Karein' on 22nd October 2015 in old Delhi and second on 22nd November, 2015 in Dwarka for limited duration. Dedicated cycle track have been laid along certain roads in Delhi to promote cycling.

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